



State of Wisconsin
Department of Public Instruction
Elizabeth Burmaster, State Superintendent

*****NEWS RELEASE*****

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Schools to share what works through charter dissemination grants

MADISON—"Charter school best practices keep getting better each year of the program," said State Superintendent Elizabeth Burmaster in announcing \$1.3 million in dissemination grants to 12 charter schools in nine school districts.

The grants are part of the state's \$52 million three-year federal funding to create 100 new charter schools in Wisconsin. Four of the grants renew previous dissemination projects; and eight are for new projects, some of which include partnerships with existing schools to improve student academic achievement.

New charter school grants went to

- Appleton Area School District, Appleton eSchool, \$40,000;
- Eau Claire Area School District, Chippewa Valley Montessori Charter School, \$149,760;
- Kiel Area School District, Kiel eSchool, \$40,000;
- Milwaukee Public Schools, Fairview Charter School, \$150,000;
- Portage Community School District, River Crossing Charter School, \$84,217;
- Stevens Point Area School District, McDill Academies, \$150,000, and Wisconsin River Academy, \$150,000; and
- Waukesha School District, Harvey Phillip Alternative Charter School, \$47,575.

Renewal grants for existing dissemination projects went to

- Milwaukee Public Schools, Whittier Elementary School, \$150,000, and Wisconsin Career Academy, \$150,000;
- Oshkosh Area School District, EAA/OASD Third Grade Aviation Charter School, \$150,000; and
- Racine Unified School District, McKinley Middle Charter School, \$75,000.

(more)

“Several of these grants partner experienced charter schools with other charter and public schools to conduct activities that will improve student academic achievement in all participating schools. This is key to raising academic achievement for all students and closing the achievement gap,” Burmaster said.

To be eligible for a dissemination grant, the charter schools must be, at minimum, in its fourth year of successful operation, have demonstrated overall success including substantial progress in improving student achievement, document high levels of parental satisfaction, describe management and leadership practices needed to overcome initial start-up problems, and show the school is a thriving, financially viable charter school.

Wisconsin began the school year with 181 charter schools. Last October, the Department of Public Instruction awarded \$9.48 million to fund planning for 18 new charter schools and to support the first and second year operations in 62 other schools. Charter schools are public schools accountable to their authorizing agency for performance measures included in their charter contracts. Charter schools must be nonsectarian, employ licensed teachers and staff members, administer statewide tests, and comply with federal regulations that govern all public schools. School districts and three chartering authorities—the city of Milwaukee, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, and University of Wisconsin-Parkside—oversee the state’s charter schools.

“Charter schools are part of the energy and innovation we see in Wisconsin’s PK-12 public schools to meet the diverse needs of all students,” Burmaster said. “These grants support sharing of best practices that are new models for schools to ensure a quality education for every child.”

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